की मदद करने के लिए, उनको बचाने के लिए ....(व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Congratulation to the Government for taking such action. I appreciate it. Listen, our tradition and rule say that the day when we have a Calling Attention, we would not discuss anything else. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI BALBIR SINGH: Madam, as a special case, kindly allow me. ...(*Interruptions*)... Madam, I have sought permission to raise a serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Members should decide it. Either we say that we will not have the Private Members' business or we say we will not have the Calling Attention. I have no objection. ...(*Interruptions*)... Shri Gurudas Das Gupta is going to discuss a very important issue. ...(*Interruptions*). ...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the normal business rule of the House categorically states that if there is a Calling Attention, it has to be taken up just after the Question Hour. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know it. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, we are allowing this time to be taken for that also because we are concerned with the arms-drop issue at Purulia. The rule demands that this be taken up as the most urgent time.

...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. We will take up the Zero Hour Submissions and Special Mentions later on. We are still going to have Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or whatever day the House is sitting. Let us take Purulia arms-drop issue. It is a very important issue. It is our country's concern. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (RAJASTHAN): It is a question of national security. ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is a question of national security. Please call the attention of the hon. Minister.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I call the attention the Minister of Home Affairs...(*Interruptions*)

श्री रामजीलाल : उपसभापति महोदया, एक मिनट मुझे सीकरी के बारे में कहना है (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : अभी नहीं, अभी बैठिये। सब एग्री हो गये (व्यवधान) देखिए कभी कभी एग्रीमेंट होता है बड़ी मुश्किल से इस हाउस में, एग्रीमेंट को मत तोड़िये। बैठ जाइये प्लीज़।

श्री रामजीलाल : मेडम, मुझे सिर्फ एक लाइन कहनी है। (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति : बाद में। आप हमें बता दें, हम चिट्ठी लिख देंगे। (व्यवधान)

श्री रामजीलाल : मुख्य मंत्री ने कहा है कि सीकरी में जो घटना हुई है उसमें पूरा कम्पनसेशन दिया जाएगा (व्यवधान) सारी कार्यवाही हो गई है, सारे मुलज़िम पकड़े गये हैं। दुर्भाग्य की बात है, घटना बहुत बुरी हुई है। पूरी कार्यवाही करके सारे मुलजिम पकड़े गये हैं, कोई बाकी नहीं है (व्यवधान) (समाप्त)

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE— Situation Arising out of the Dropping of Lethal Weapons in National Security

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (WEST BENGAL): Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the situation arising out of the dropping of lethal weapons in Purulia posing a threat to national security.

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी बोलिये।

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): Madam Deputy Chairperson. On December 17, 1995, at 1734 hrs. a commercial aircraft the Carol Air Services (AN-26 type aircraft), on a flight Karachi to Yangoon made a technical halt at Varanasi, for refuelling. At Varanasi the Capt. of aircraft submitted a fresh flight plan seeking permission to land at Calcutta airport on its way to Yangoon. The aircraft left from Varanasi at 2200 hrs. the same day and made a stop over at Calcutta airprot at 0040 hrs on 18th December, 1995. As permission was denied to land at Yangoon, the aircraft left at 0230 hrs. for Phuket.

On December 17 at around 2300 hrs., the villagers in the area of PS Jhalda/PS Jeypore, District Purulia, West Bengal heard a sound of a low flying aircraft followed by the sound of some heavy items hitting the earth. Early in the morning of December 18, the villagers found two parachutes and several large boxes. Some villagers informed PS Jhalda and the police rushed to the scene and recovered some AK series rifles, pistols, empty magazines, hand granades, anti-tank granades, rocket launhcers and large quantities of ammunition. It appeared that these weapons had been air dropped the previous night. Subsequently, a criminal case was registered at PS Jhalda and the investigation was taken up by the CID West Bengal Police.

On receipt of information from the West Bengal Government about the airdrop of arms and ammunition, a high level multi-agency team was sent by the MHA to Purulia in a special aircraft to assist the West Bengal and Bihar authorities in intensifying search operations in the Bihar-West Bengal border areas. As a result, the West Bengal Police was able to recover a large quantities of the arms and ammunition which had been air dropped.

A scrutiny of the airport records at Calcutta and Varanasi also enabled the team to identify the suspect aircraft from which the dropping had taken place, as an AN-26 aircraft with the registration No. YL-BDB which had gone from Varanasi to Calcutta and on to Phuket in Thailand. MHA shared this information with DGCA, Airport Authority of India, Indian Air Foce and other agencies.

On December 21, night, the suspect AN-261 landed at Madras for refenling. After it took off from Madras it was force landed at Bombay airport on December 22 at 0139 hrs. The crew members were detained for questioning. However, one crew member, Kim P. Davy, on the pretext of depositing the airport charges etc., disappeared from the airport at Bombay. On questioning, the crew disclosed the details of the arms dropping, ownership of the aircraft, source of procurement of weapons and the names of other conspirators. At the instance of Peter Bleach, a British national, who was the flight coordinator of the aircraft, some weapons were also recovered from the aircraft. All the crew members were arrested and the aircraft seized.

In view of the ramifications of the air dropping of the arms and ammunition, the CBI was immediately associated with the investigation of the case being conducted by the West Bengal Police. On December 28, after obtaining the consent of the West Bengal Government, the CBI took over the investigation of the case.

In the course of their investigation, the West Bengal Police had conducted a raid on the Anand Marg Ashram at Anand Nagar (Purulia District) on December 23. In the raid, 11 persons were arrested, who have since been released on bail. The West Bengal Police had also arrested J.K. Malhan and S.K. Malhan of Air Charter Services India, which had obtained the flight clearance from the DGCA.

The details of arms and ammunition recovered so far, is in the attached statement.

Questioning of an accused disclosed that a conspiracy was hatched at Bangkok in September 1995 to supply a consignment of fire arms in India. The consignment would be in the name of the Government of Bangladesh.

The accused stated that after loading the consignment of weapons in the AN-26 aircraft in Bulgaria, they flew to Karachi on December 13, 1995 and stayed there till December 17. In Karachi they repacked the weapons and fabricated wooden pallets to facilitate the para dropping. On December 17, 1995, they flew from Karachi to Varanasi and before landing at Calcutta, air dropped the consignment.

11. Various police agencies in India and abroad have been alerted to apprehend the absconding accused, namely, Kim P. Davy, Deepak Daya M. Anand and Randy Satya Narayan Gowda. Investigations are also being conducted at various places, including Calcutta, Purulia, Bombay, Varanasi, Madras, Delhi and many areas of Bihar. The documents which have been collected during investigation are being examined with the help of experts. The assistance of Interpol has also been sought for the investigation of the case, which has remifications in various countries including United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Thailand, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Lativia and Denmark.

In January 1996, searches were conducted at over 20 places in Delhi on the basis of information collected about the contacts of Kim P. Davy. Documents of foreign remittances, foreign currency, forged rubber stamps, Anand Marg literature and other incirminating documents were seized during these raids.

Voluminous documents recovered from the aircraft and during searches across the country, as well as, various material exhibits collected during investigation, including the Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR), Flight Data Recorder (FDR), Velocity Height Gradient Recorder (VHG), Global Positioning System (GPS) and a Lap top Computer etc., are being scrutinized and the data analysed in detail. The CBI has sent diffusion notices to the Interpol for detention of Kim P. Davy, Deepk Daya M. Anand and Randy Satya Narayana Gowda. Open warrants of arrest have been obtained by the CBI against these persons from the Court of Law. Arrangements have been made for issue of 'Red Corner Notices' by Interpol against these persons for their apprehension.

The investigation, so far, indicates that the fire arms were meants to be received by certain Anand Margis. However, this aspect needs further confirmation. Investigation of the case is proceeding consistently, systematically and along the correct lines.

The Purulia air-dropping is the first such incident that has taken place in the country since Independence. It may be wroth nothing that the system ultimately did respond in identifying the aircraft responsible for the air-dropping, force landing it at Bombay and the arrest of the perpetrators. The prompt search oprations launched by the West Bengal Government resulted in the recovery of substantial portions of the arms and ammunition air-dropped at Purulia. However, the incident did reveal certain gaps within the prevailing system relating to permission and clearances for operation of non-scheduled flights over the air-space of this country. Accordingly, an Inter-Ministerial Committee was set up to identify these gaps in order to strengthen the infrastructure and the coordination between the various agencies to prevent the recurrence of such an incident in the future. The Committee's report which contains wide-ranging recommendations has been accepted by the Government. Steps have already been taken for ensuring the proper sharing of the information by the concerned agencies and the tightening of security measures. Steps have also been initiated for a more thorough checking of the non-scheduled flights and over delayed halts at airports, for detecting that they do not carry contraband cargo. A drill has also been evolved for better coordination procedure between various agencies for handling the aircraft, crew and cargo in the eventuality of its being forced to land.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You don't have to read the list of arms. It is given there. It is given in the Statement that these are the arms which were recovered. I have uptill now nine names.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Hon. Deputy Chairman, while complimenting you on the 'International Women's Day' let me begin by saying that the hon. Minister for Home has made a spurious Statement. I call it a spurious Statement because the hon. Minister is holding back information from the House. He is holding back information from the House. And I call it a spurious Statement. This is a narration of what has happened after the arms were dropped but he has meticulously avoided the development that was in the knowledge of the Government of India before the arms were dropped. The incidents can be divided into two. There was a conspiracy to drop the arms in Purulia in West Bengal and that conspiracy was an international conspiracy and that conspiracy was known to the Government of India and the Government of India had failed miserably — as it has on many other occasions — to take pre-emptive meausres to stop the incident. Therefore, without going into the first aspect of the develoment he has only narrated what has happened after the arms-drop. Therefore, it is a spurious Statement. Madam, rarely during the tenure of the present Government we had occasion to discuss its success and achievement. Most of the period failures, lapses, scandals and serious omissions had attracted the notice of the nation. And today is no exception. But what is unique is that we must address ourselves or we seek to address ourselves to the most sensitive issue concerning the failure of a strategic nature involving no other thing than

national security. Even on the question of national security the Government has failed to act with necessary preparedness. That is the charge that I seek to make against the Government. Even on the question of national safety and security the Government has failed miserably as it has failed in other respects including the hawala issue and investigation of other scandals of the country. I say that, Madam, because the intelligence mechanism has been found to be wanting. The intelligence mechanism of the country has been found to be wanting. The surveillance system was napping. The defence coordination was in total disarray. Thus, an international conspiracy to drop arms with the aid of a group of religious lunatics operating mostly in West Bengal and who once upon a time threatened to kill the Chief Minister of West Bengal, who are working with a creed of violence and with the principle of session and with a lofty goal of establishing a Hindu Raj in the country, was allowed to be carried out without any form of obstruction from the Government agency. The arms dropping was allowed to be carried out. The Government owes more to explain. He has given us a narration without explaining or answering the fundamental question. I would like to know whether the Government had any prior information of the arms dropping. That is the strategic question. If the Government had any prior information, was that vital information shared with the Government of West Bengal where arms were likely to be dropped? Therefore, Madam, the important question which the hon. Minister has preferred to overlook, to gloss over is this: Was the Central Government so warned by a foreign country? If so, what was the directive of the Government of India to the security agencies? Was that information shared with the Government of the State-where the consignment of arms was likely to be dropped? Madam, with your kind permission, with the persemission of the House, may I request the hon. Minister for Home and Leader of the House to kindly look into the files and tell the House whether there was a letter from the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home, dated 12th December, 1995, mentioning a conspiracy to drop arms to the communist rebels in the area of Dhanbad? In the second paragraph of the letter, it is said—kindly mark this, Madam—"According to further information, the insurgent group which was to receive this consignment of 2500 AK-47 rifles and 15 lakh rounds of ammunition, is opposed to the CPM Government of West Bengal." This is the crux. The arms were dropped to oppose the CPM Government in West Bengal and the Congress Government at the Centre had the information and that information was not passed on to the Government of West Bengal. Madam, with your kind permission, may I say that the letter was signed by Shri Shashi Prakash, Joint Secretary, Government of India, dated 12th December, 1995. (*Interruptions*).

उपसभापति: क्या बोला है? ...(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, he has something to say.

उपसभापति: क्या बोला है इन्होंने? ....(व्यवधान)..

SHRI MD. SALIM: He says that the Government of West Bengal is in possession of arms. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SUDHIR RANJAN MAJUMDAR (Tripura): Your party. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): No. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Salim, please sit down. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MD. SALIM: He said "How much of arms do you possess?" (*Interruptions*).

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, this is the tragedy, (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will request the hon. Members. Please, please, (*Interruptions*) आप भी बैठिए। .... (व्यवधान) ....

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): It should be expunged. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one second, Gurudasji, one second. Please, let me bring order. (*Interruptions*). No, whatever it is, I am sorry. You may have your differences with them. Please do it on other occasions. You may find out how many arms they have. You can ask him to present a list to you, but, on the issue of Purilia, I would request both you and Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta to be extremely

objective in your speech because the fact that we want to know is who is behind it, whether a foreign country is involved in it, how, all of us, in this House, can discuss and help the Government to strengthen our defences. So, please, in that spirit you discuss. (*Interruptions*). Let the Home Minister answer. Please do not make allegations and counter-allegations because then the whole issue will be distorted.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am making the allegation deliberately because I wish the Government takes this opportunity to answer it. I am not saying something on my own. I am only quoting from the letter of the Joint Secretary of Government of India to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal Government.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta, please listen to me.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I am only quoting from the letter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Agreed, but the Government, the Home Minister....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: All the words that I have used are from the letter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. You are reading out from a letter. I do not know how authentic the letter is.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I will authenticate it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You authenticate it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am authenticating it, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are just reading out from a letter. It is not part of the document which is presented... (*Interruptions*)

Just one second, Mr. Gurudas Das Gupta. We are not arguing about anything. I am in agreement with the Home Minister, with you, and with all the others that this is a very serious issue. That is why, today, we are discussing it. The thing is, you are quoting from a document. You say it is Joint Secretary's letter. Let the Home Minister ascertain. You authenticate it. You say it is a Joint Secretary's letter. As a Presiding Officer, I have no knowledge of it. I have no knowledge of how it looks like. It is for the Home Minister to ascertain.

Secondly, I understand the sincerity of the Home Minister. He has come today with the statement before the House. In the end, he is going to answer all the queries. He cannot answer all the questions before you put them. You put your questions in all your earnestness and the Home Minister would answer them in all sincerity. But please put your questions objectively, keeping the interests of the country in mind. This is one question where we should rise above party considerations.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I am in total agreement with you, Madam.

उपसभापति: अहलुवालिया जी, स्टेट मिनिस्टर आफ पार्लियमेंटरी अफेयर्स, कुछ कह रहे हैं।

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is my pleasure to get in touch with the Minister.

संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया): उपसभापति महोदय, पुरूलिया आर्म्स ड्राप एक बहुत संगीन मसला है और इसके लिए सारा भारत हम लोगों की तरफ देख रहा है और हमारे दुश्मन, जिन्होंने आर्म्स गिराए हैं, वे भी देख रहे हैं कि हम क्या करने जा रहे हैं, पर उस पर हमारा इस तरह आरोप लगाना या प्रत्यारोप करना कि सी.पी.एम. की सरकार से काउंटर करने के लिए सरकार ने या किसी ने षड़यंत्र किया है, यह गलत बात है। हमें इन दुश्मनों को बेनकाब करना चाहिए। .... (**व्यवधान**)....

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: It is there in the letter, Madam. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): What is the Minister saying? (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will resolve it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, I take your directive. I have never crossed, and I shall never cross, the limits of propriety. But I say those who run the Government should also respond in a proper way. I have quoted from the letter. I am authenticating it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is for you to authenticate it. But I have to adjourn the House for lunch. You come and show the letter to me.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I will authenticate it, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You say in two minutes whatever you want to say and then I will adjourn the House.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: We should dispense with the lunch hour because this is an extremely important issue.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): No; how can it be? (*Interruptions*). There are Members here who would like to go for *namaz*. This is an important discussion. We can resume the discussion at 2.30 p.m. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will have a look at the letter.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: If you want to adjourn the House for lunch, I would prefer resuming my speech after lunch. You adjourn it now and you have a look at the letter. I say this because my whole argument is based on this letter which the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs had sent to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal Government. This letter is the basis of my argument. On the basis of that, I will put questions to the hon. Minister. Therefore, you can adjourn the House now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will adjourn the House for lunch till 2 o'clock. You please come and show me the letter.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Yes; of course; no problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will resume the discussion after that. The House is now adjourned for lunch.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-nine minutes past twelve of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at three minutes past two of the clock, THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY) in the Chair.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—Situation arising out of the airdropping of lethal weapons in Purulia posing a threat to National Security—*Contd.*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Now we will continue with the Calling Attention. The Private Members' Business will be taken up on some other day.

Gurudasji, you may continue with your speech.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Sir, we have been discussing about the letter written by the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal. Since the hon. Chairman has allowed me to authenticate it and place it on the Table of the House, I shall read out the letter, and then I shall place it on the Table of the House.

[Placed in library. *See* No. LT 9420/96 and 9421/96]

Sir, the letter dated 12th December, 1995 is from Mr. Shashi Prakash, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal. With your permission, I am reading out the letter. The letter says:

> "Reports available in the Ministry indicate that Europe-based businessman had approached an individual with a request to pilot a small plane between Karachi and Dhaka, delivering arms and ammunition en route to communist rebels in the area of Dhanbad....."

"It was suggested to the pilot that he could land at an airstrip 86.20 degrees east and 20.30 degrees north, which is located along a river with hills on either side and close to the normal commercial route from Karachi to Dacca. After unloading the arms, the plane could go on to Dacca with its legitimate cargo. The individual concerned is reported to have declined to take up the proposal. The arms dealer, who was arranging the supply of the weapons, is also learnt to have since pulled out of the deal on commercial grounds. Despite these setbacks, the businessman, who had approached the pilot, has since purchased an AN-26 aircraft. He left for Riga, Lativa on November 15, 1995 and was planning to travel to Pakistan. Hence there is a strong possibility that he is still pursuing the project...." (*Interruptions*) Sir, may I request the hon. Minister's help to kindly listen to the discussion? He is a Government representative.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Jagannath Mishra Ji, the hon. Member is speaking. Kindly don't interrupt.